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ABSTRACT

This book guides high school students and their families as they select and apply to college by suggesting significant questions, offering practical advice, and showing how to make the system work for the student and family. Chapter 1 discusses initial reflection about college including doing a self-assessment to focus the college search and increase chances of finding a good fit. Chapter 2 explores choosing colleges and covers factors to consider, information sources, early decision and early action, rolling admissions, and other factors. Chapter 3 uses description of three typical students to discuss visits to colleges and interviews. Chapter 4 is on planning and preparing for college all throughout the high school years including critical tests and when to take them. Chapter 5 addresses applications in general including electronic filing, answering the questions, essays, and mistakes to avoid. Chapter 6 offers points for making the most impressive application. Chapter 7 looks at financing including planning, shortening the college experience, the financial aid system, loan programs, ways to reduce tuition and fees, payment plans, and information sources. Chapter 8 discusses parents and their own expectations of college. Chapter 9 is on how to handle acceptances, rejections, and wait-listing. Chapter 10 contains tips for having a good experience during the freshman year. An index is included. (JB)

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